

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1 - 39. Please add new claims 40 - 53 as follows. The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1 – 39. (Canceled)

40. (New) An intravascular guide wire, comprising:  
a core having a proximal core section with proximal and distal ends, and a distal core section with proximal and distal ends;  
a weld at a joint connecting the distal end of the proximal core section to the proximal end of the distal core section;  
wherein the joint is not covered by a sleeve.

41. (New) The guide wire of claim 40, wherein the weld does not include a filler material.

42. (New) The guide wire of claim 40, wherein the weld is accomplished through heat and pressure.

43. (New) The guide wire of claim 40, wherein the joint further comprises a first shape at the distal end of the proximal core section and a second shape complementary to the first shape at the proximal end of the distal core section.

44. (New) The guide wire of claim 40, wherein the joint includes no gap in between the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section.

45. (New) An intravascular guide wire having at least two core materials joined together without the use of a hypotube, comprising:  
a core having a proximal core section with a proximal end and a distal end, and a distal core section with a proximal end and a distal end;

the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section being aligned complementary to one another; and

a welded joint disposed between the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section;

wherein the at least two core materials are joined together without the use of a hypotube.

46. (New) The guide wire of claim 45, wherein the welded joint does not include a filler material.

47. (New) The guide wire of claim 45, wherein the welded joint includes no gap in between the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section.

48. (New) The guide wire of claim 45, wherein the welded joint includes a mass of hardened material.

49. (New) The guide wire of claim 45, wherein the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section abut each other at the welded joint.

50. (New) An intravascular guide wire, comprising:  
a core having a proximal core section with proximal and distal ends, and a distal core section with proximal and distal ends;

means for welding the core sections together disposed at a joint in between the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section;  
wherein the joint is not covered by a sleeve.

51. (New) The guide wire of claim 50, wherein the means for welding does not include a filler material.

52. (New) The guide wire of claim 50, wherein the means for welding includes a mass of hardened material.

53. (New) The guide wire of claim 50, wherein the distal end of the proximal core section and the proximal end of the distal core section abut each other at the joint.